

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 ACDA-05 CCO-00

AF-06 OPIC-03 /070 W

----- 114416

Z R 051800Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4149

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL MILITARY SITUATION

REF: LISBON 5193 DTG 051404Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, ARMED FORCES COMMANDER-DESIGNATE VASCO GONCALVES, THREE SERVICE CHIEF AND OTHER REPORTEDLY WENT INTO SESSION 3:00 P.M. LOCAL AT TANCOS. UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS CONSTITUTE "AFM ASSEMBLY" OR SPECIAL SESSION BY NATION'S LEADERS TO RESOLVE TODAY'S POLITICAL-MILITARY CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

1. POLITICAL/MILITARY SITUATION AS OF 6:00 P.M.:

FOLLOWING INFORMATION BECAME AVAILABLE AFTER BARBOUR/

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CARLUCCI TELCON: RADIO CLUBE PORTUGUESE REPORT SAYS TYPE OF

MEETING WAS UNCLEAR, BUT THAT A MEETING WAS UNDER WAY WITH ATTENDANCE BY PRESIDENT, VASCO GONCALVES, THREE SERVICE CHIEFS, AND OTHERS. REPORT BY EMISSORA NACIONAL, HOWEVER, CALLED IT AFM ASSEMBLY WITH FULL NAVY, NO KNOWN AF REPRESENTATIVES, AND 47 PRO-GONCALVES ARMY OFFICERS.

2. STATEMENTS ABOUT MEETING: EMISSOR NACIONAL QUOTED ARMY SPOKESMAN CAPTAIN VASCO LOURENCO AS SAYING. "I DO NOT SEE HOW ANY DECISIONS CAN BE MADE IN AN ASSEMBLY IN WHICH THE ARMY IS ABSENT AND AS FAR AS IS KNOWN THE AIR FORCE IS ABSENT TOO." AIR FORCE CHIEF MORAIS E SILVA WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THERE CANNOT BE AN ASSEMBLY WITHOUT ALL THREE BRANCHES IN ATTENDANCE. LACKING EVEN ONE, THERE CAN BE NO ASSEMBLY."

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS NO INSIDE INFORMATION, BUT WE TEND TO ACCEPT RADIO CLUBE REPORT, WHICH INDICATES COUNTRY'S MILITARY LEADERS HAVE CLOSETED THEMSELVES TO TRY TO WRING OUT A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS WHICH CAME TO A HEAD TODAY. ALL IN ALL, THIS APPEARS TO BE A TYPICAL PORTUGUESE APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE PROBLEM. SO FAR TODAY THE ARMY HAS STOOD REMARKABLY FIRM BEHIND THE NINE, BUT THE CRUCIAL TEST IS NOW AT HAND AS THEY AGAIN COME UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE PRESIDENT. WE ASSUME (AND HOPE) THAT THEY HAVE HAD ENOUGH EXPERIENCE NOW TO AVOID PLACING THEIR TRUST IN COSTA GOMES.  
CARLUCCI

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## Message Attributes

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